



PRISON INFRASTRUCTURE

Governor Schwarzenegger has called for a special session of the Legislature to address the urgent issues of recidivism and overcrowding in California's prison system. The Governor is introducing four correctional proposals: moving non-violent female offenders to secure community-based correctional facilities; creating secure parole re-entry facilities; building two new prisons and improving prison infrastructure; and streamlining the state's procurement process for these projects. If passed by the Legislature, these proposals will help reduce prison overcrowding and return-to-custody rates.

Addressing epidemic overcrowding and outdated buildings

California's adult prison population is at a historic high of more than 171,000 and state prison facilities can no longer adequately or safely accommodate these inmates. Today, more than 16,000 inmates are housed in gymnasiums, TV rooms, and other dangerous and inappropriate housing spaces. As a result of these conditions, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) reports that it cannot house inmates beyond June 2007 in existing facilities.

The Governor addressed California's need for new prisons in his January 2006 Strategic Growth Plan. A number of legislative efforts to improve prison infrastructure, including Speaker Nunez's AB 2902, are currently underway. The special session gives Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature the opportunity to examine all options to determine what California needs and can afford in terms of prison construction.

The Governor's proposal addresses bed shortages, aging infrastructure, and space deficiencies by:

- Constructing two new prisons to accommodate thousands of additional inmates and provide appropriate, secure housing.
- Upgrading and expanding power, water, and wastewater infrastructure systems throughout the state prison system.

CDCR is working with the Administration to explore every available solution to California's prison overcrowding crisis. Additional options under consideration include:

- Constructing additional housing, programming, and health care facility construction on existing prison property.
- Expanding contract beds to provide housing and rehabilitative programming space.
- Using existing facilities operated by other state agencies.
- Securing out-of-state contracts with facilities to house foreign nationals who will be deported after completion of their sentence.

The Administration proposes using lease-revenue bonds to fund the Governor's prison construction and secure re-entry facilities proposals.

Governor Schwarzenegger's fourth prison proposal will allow the state to streamline its prison procurement and construction processes. The special session will allow the Legislature to specify how bidding and procurement should be modified to remedy emergency conditions. All options will be explored, and may include changes such as modifying CEQA requirements, or authorizing bond funding by program rather than by project.